

**March 2005**

**The mission of the Franklin County Criminal Justice/Homeland Security Planning Board is to provide system-wide comprehensive planning and oversight, identify training and technical assistance needs and direct the efficient and effective application of Federal funds toward developing and sustaining projects and programs that deliver services to the Franklin County community to enhance their health, safety, and welfare.**

**The Franklin County Criminal Justice Planning Board was created in April 2000 as a result of the merge between the City of Columbus and Franklin County into a Regional Planning Unit for Criminal Justice Services. Board membership includes the Mayor of the City of Columbus, the President of the Board of Franklin County Commissioners and twenty members representing justice and related disciplines including law enforcement, courts, probation/parole, victim services, corrections, juvenile, mental health service providers, crime prevention, public defenders, prosecutors, education, and community neighborhoods.**

**The Board is responsible for comprehensive countywide planning and directing the mission of the Office of Homeland Security & Justice Programs. The Franklin County Office of Homeland Security & Justice Programs performs the fiscal and programmatic administration of the county's federal justice block grants and the Urban Area Security Initiative, provides training and technical assistance for the justice partners and first responders, and is responsible for the development and evaluation of projects and programs operating in accordance with the Franklin County Comprehensive Strategic Justice Plan and the Homeland Security Strategy. The Board developed the "Franklin County Comprehensive Strategic Justice Plan" to identify major emphasis areas of concentration within each discipline to enhance efficiency and improve the delivery of justice services in Franklin County.**

**The planning process was initiated in late spring of 2001 by interviewing thirty-one key stakeholders to gather feedback on current justice system operations and identify assets and needs within the system. Next, a mail survey was delivered to one hundred and three criminal justice projects, programs, and partners in Franklin County who potentially administer programs that are part of the justice system. The summary of survey responses provided an assessment of identified justice needs and produced an asset inventory of programs that was published and distributed to justice partners. In addition to key stakeholder interviews and justice partner surveys, Board members studied a comprehensive data profile of the justice system including an overview of current trends and conditions within Franklin County prior to retreating to develop the Franklin County Comprehensive Strategic Justice Plan. The Plan is revised and updated on an annual basis to include impact accomplishments and address emerging trends and conditions that affect Franklin County's justice delivery system.**

**The Homeland Security Strategy was developed in January 2004 by the Terrorism Advisory Team and is aligned with the State of Ohio's Homeland Security Strategy. The Strategy identifies goals and defines the implementation steps necessary to support Franklin County's First Responders in the prevention of, response to, and recovery from acts of terrorism. The Strategy is written in an all-hazards approach to support on-going efforts to provide planning, training, exercising, and equipment to secure critical infrastructure, provide personal protection, improve communications, and promote interoperability. The Homeland Security Strategy is a sensitive document protected under the Homeland Security Act and is referred to in general terms herein.**

**The Franklin County Comprehensive Strategic Justice Plan and the Homeland Security Strategy are live documents that will remain strategic to allow for the implementation of priority projects as**

trends and conditions emerge and new initiatives are developed to meet the demand for change within the delivery system. The attached 2005 version of the Plan was approved by the Franklin County Criminal Justice Planning Board on March 16, 2005.

Honorable Brian Cook, Chairman  
Franklin County Criminal Justice Planning Board

**THE FRANKLIN COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE**  
**STRATEGIC JUSTICE PLAN**

**MARCH 2005**

**Presented By:**

## **The 2005 Franklin County Criminal Justice Planning Board**

### **Members**

Hon. Mary Jo Kilroy, Franklin County Commissioner  
Hon. Michael B. Coleman, Columbus City Mayor  
Hon. Paula Brooks, Franklin County Commissioner  
Hon. Ted Barrows, Franklin County Municipal Court  
Hon. Jim Mason, Franklin County Juvenile Court  
Hon. John Bessey, Common Pleas Judge  
Hon. Ronald O'Brien, Franklin County Prosecutor  
Hon. Richard C Pfeiffer, Columbus City Attorney  
Hon. Michael Mentel, Columbus City Council  
Kevin P. Clark, Municipal Probation  
Denise Robinson, Alvis House Ass't. Director  
James A. Karnes, Franklin County Sheriff  
Cindi Gibson, Common Pleas Adult Probation  
Mark J. Barrett, Franklin County Chief Deputy  
James G. Jackson, Columbus City Police Chief  
Suzanne Coleman Tolbert, Franklin County ADAMH  
Brian Cook, Office of the Ohio Attorney General  
Gayle Dittmer, Adult Probation Services  
Yeura Venters, Franklin County Public Defender  
Bud Potter, Community-Based Corrections  
Abukar Arman, Columbus Public Schools  
Bishop Marshall, Community Representative

### **Alternates:**

Rick Tilton, Columbus City Policy Advisor

Jane McKenzie, Franklin County Prosecutor's Office  
Leslie Ashworth, Columbus City Attorney's Office  
Wyatt Kingseed, Columbus City Council's Office

Don Reyna, Alvis House  
Stephan Martin, Franklin County Chief Deputy

Steven Gammil, Columbus City Police Deputy Chief  
Kevin Dixon, Franklin County ADAMH

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**Franklin County receives approximately four (4) million dollars in federal justice formula block grant funds and nine (9) million dollars in Homeland Security (Urban Area Security Initiative) funds annually passed through to the Office of Homeland Security & Justice Programs (OHSJP) by the State of Ohio. The Franklin County allocation of federal justice block grants is disbursed through a competitive grant process administered by the OHSJP. Franklin County's allocation of Urban Area Security**

**Initiative (UASI) funds is disbursed through a comprehensive funding process as determined by the Terrorism Advisory Team (TAT) and administered by the OHS&JP.**

**Under the direction of the State Office of Criminal Justice Services the OHSJP administers the Byrne Memorial and S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women grant programs. Under the direction of the Ohio Department of Youth Services, the OHSJP administers the Juvenile Accountability Incentive and Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Title II block grant programs. All grants have an open application period once a year and operate on a continuing basis for a minimum of twelve months. Federal and State Directives are established for each grant, each year, and passed through to the local level for implementation. Under the direction of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency the OHSJP administers the Columbus Urban Area Security Initiative grant program.**

**Franklin County's five competitive justice block grants provide funding for a wide variety of projects and programs including crime prevention, victim services, local law enforcement assistance, juvenile delinquency prevention, law enforcement task forces, technology integration and information sharing, alternatives to corrections, substance abuse treatment, and innovative programs operated within the justice disciplines. Applications for projects and programs that impact the major emphasis areas identified by discipline for law enforcement, courts, probation/parole, victim services, crime prevention, juvenile, corrections, and courts will be given priority funding. The Board will focus on the major emphasis areas in each of the justice disciplines as funding plans are developed within the guidelines of the block grant initiatives.**

**Common major emphasis themes throughout all justice disciplines include the lack of mental health and substance abuse treatment programs, the need for alternatives to incarceration, a demand for system and technology integration, inadequate funding to meet system demands, and most prevalent, the**

need for cultural understanding training and language interpretation services. The Board will continue to focus research, evaluation and planning efforts on these identified priority areas in the 2005 programming year.

In addition, the Franklin County Criminal Justice Planning Board has established the following local directives to support identified major emphasis areas in accordance with the Franklin County Comprehensive Strategic Justice Plan:

- Applications for youth programs operating after school, Saturdays, or during the summer must include a nutritious breakfast, lunch or hot supper for all LMI children participating in the program. Applicants will be required to work with the Children's Hunger Alliance to qualify their program site for services.
- Training and technical assistance programs will be developed and administered by the JPU to address needs identified in the major emphasis areas of the Franklin County Comprehensive Strategic Justice Plan. Attendance will be mandatory for affected personnel funded through the JPU.
- Projects and programs funded through the JPU are required to submit written minutes (including attendance) of their Collaborative Board meetings along with their quarterly fiscal and programmatic reports.
- S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women sub-grantees are required to attend and participate in quarterly meetings of the Franklin County VAWA Advisory Board.

- **Crime Prevention projects and programs funded through the JPU are required to have local law enforcement as a working partner in their project and represented on their Collaborative Board.**
- **Justice projects and programs funded through the JPU must participate in the Commissioner's Annual Justice Exposition to promote public awareness, facilitate networking and collaboration between justice disciplines and provide the opportunity for evaluation by members of the Franklin County Criminal Justice Planning Board.**

**The Columbus Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant provides funding to plan, equip, train, and exercise Franklin County's First Responders. Based on the Columbus Urban Area Homeland Security Strategy developed by the Franklin County Terrorism Advisory Team (TAT), funding is prioritized based on identified threat, risk and need.**

**Crossing the ten First Responder disciplines of administration, public health, emergency management, fire, EMS, law enforcement, HazMat, DeCon, health care, public works, and public information, grant funds are applied to meet regional goals to prevent, respond to, and recover from disaster in an all-hazards approach.**

**The TAT will continuously update and refine the Columbus Urban Area Homeland Security Strategy to reflect accomplished implementation steps, assess progress toward completion of goals, and address current trends and conditions in accordance with Homeland Security efforts at the federal, State, and Local levels.**

**The TAT has developed the following local directives for the UASI funds:**

- **All funding requests must be Regional in application.**

- **All projects must be in accordance with the Goals of the Columbus Urban Area Homeland Security Strategy.**
- **The CEO of the political sub-division must approve the request for equipment and accept all on-going costs including maintenance, licenses, insurance etc.**
- **Projects will be funded in full or in part based on identified threat, risk, and need priority.**

## **HOMELAND SECURITY**

### **Major Emphasis Area:**

- a.) **Personal protective equipment for all First Responders including fire, police, EMS, HazMat, DeCon, and highly specialized teams ie: Bomb squad, SWAT, Regional Strike teams. – 4/2004 Completed the inventory, assessment of needs and all PPE equipment is on order.**
- b.) **Improve communications through the building of an interoperability infrastructure in accordance with the Franklin County Interoperability Plan. – TAT has identified 50% of all Homeland Security funds will be applied toward meeting interoperability.**



- c.) Harden soft targets and secure critical infrastructure as designated on the Franklin County Critical Infrastructure List certified to the Office of Domestic Preparedness. – Additional funding has been received to address critical infrastructure at OSU and shopping malls.**
- d.) Implement Homeland Security training programs developed by the Office of Domestic Preparedness and Department of Homeland Security in a multi-disciplined, multi-jurisdictional approach.**
- e.) Develop local Homeland Security training programs that support collaboration between the private and public sector.**
- f.) Implement exercises that enhance the regional capability of First Responders and highly specialized teams.**

## **PROSECUTION**

### **Major Emphasis Areas:**

- a) Promote the integration of justice technology to facilitate case management, ensure the delivery of comprehensive services, and facilitate communication between agencies. Currently Phase II implementation of technology integration will be completed by 1/2005. This will provide connectivity for local law enforcement agencies to the regional justice portal. Project also includes equipment/software needs to integrate the disparate systems being assessed under a Homeland security Grant to JIACO. This project funded through LLEBG FY 03. Phase III submitted for funding under the FY05 Urban Area Security Initiative.**
- b) Continue to fund the Investigator through VAWA for Stalking and on-line domestic related offenses since 1/1/03. Cyber-crime training for all law enforcement agencies completed 4/2/02**
- c) Reduce the current violent crimes caseload per prosecutor. Additional Prosecutor (1) has been added to the FY 05 budget.**

### **Additional Emphasis Areas:**

- a) Provide cultural understanding training for law enforcement and prosecutors that promotes diverse cultural competency and reduce communication barriers through the employment of language interpretation services.**
- b) Implement video arraignment in the court system to reduce the burden on prosecutors, courts and corrections. We have recommended the implementation of video arraignment in the Common Pleas Court without a suggested cost analysis. The Commissioners and County Administrator will review the request and determine feasibility for FY 2005 if funding allows.**
- c) Create a specialized unit of prosecutors to address white-collar crime.**

## **PUBLIC DEFENDER**

### **Major Emphasis Area:**

- a) **The Public Defender Office will have data import access to targeted information sources from justice and human services agencies within designated time frames, to increase office efficiency and enhance the quality of legal representation provided.**
- b) **Provide cultural understanding training to personnel to promote diverse cultural competency and reduce communication barriers through the employment of language interpretation services.**
- c) **Improve information technology and telecommunication services to improve case and office management, promote inter-agency collaboration, assist in developing countywide strategic information sharing and assure the delivery of cost-effective quality client services. \* See phase I-II Justice Integration Project**
- d) **Provide continued staff development including professional competency, cultural diversity, and changing legislative and social policy trends and initiatives.**
- e) **Ensure professional and support services are adequately staffed to address increasing caseloads.**

### **Additional Emphasis Areas:**

- a) **Participate in county, state, and local initiatives to identify community justice needs and recommend systemic change to maximize the use of county resources to cost efficiently fund identified needs.**
- b) **Promote awareness of community cultural diversity by developing Public Defender services information pamphlets in multiple languages.**
- c) **Continue to monitor the statistical impact of the Juvenile Reform Bill (H.B. 179), the Juvenile Sexual Predator Law (S.B.3), the Juvenile Disposition Bill (H.B. 400), and the new traffic and misdemeanor bills, S.B. 123 and H.B. 490 respectfully, to identify additional staffing and office space needs.**

## **CRIME PREVENTION**

### **Major Emphasis Areas:**

- a) Demand accountability from parents and juveniles for acts of delinquency. S.B. 181 addresses this issue and we are implementing parental accountability in the City of Columbus Truancy project continuing in FY 05.**
- b) Develop evaluation instruments for crime prevention projects to determine effectiveness of programs and identify best practice models for replication. As of 1/1/03, new reporting standards were applied with a six-month project reporting period to evaluate effectiveness and determine best practice models.**
- c) Require collaboration with law enforcement in all crime prevention projects. Local Directive applied to all projects since 1/1/03.**

### **Additional Emphasis Areas:**

- a) Require crime prevention projects to maintain a working collaborative composed of multi-disciplined partners. Local Directive applied to all projects since 1/1/03.**
- b) Promote community sanctions as alternatives in sentencing.**
- c) Create a safety net program for senior citizen victims of crime. A two-day train-the-trainer “Elder Abuse” training was completed for police and fire/medics on 6/2-2/03. In addition, we have implemented Project Lifesaver for a one-year evaluation period in the cities of Whitehall and Worthington. A Train-the Trainer video on Elder Abuse was developed and distributed to all local police/fire agencies for on-going education of new police/fire personnel.**

## **VICTIM SERVICES**

### **Major Emphasis Areas:**

- a) Increase funding for victim services and direct funding to appropriate and effective victim service projects. Funding for all FY 05 Justice block grants continues to be reduced with the exception of VAWA which we anticipate to maintain at current funding levels.**
- b) Develop and promote a safe reporting method for family members experiencing violence in the home.**
- c) Create specialized victim service programs for youth with emphasis on youth who are witnesses to criminal violence. Family and Child Advocacy Center will address this major emphasis area.**

### **Additional Emphasis Areas:**

- a) Coordinate provider services to deliver a comprehensive service plan to victims. We have addressed the need for a comprehensive victim service booklet in multi-language (Spanish, English, Samolian) through the FY02 VAWA grant currently available from funded service providers.**
- b) Develop the role of victim advocates in the probation department to address victim notification, restitution, and offender violations.**

## **CORRECTIONS**

### **Major Emphasis Areas:**

- a) Provide cultural understanding training to corrections personnel to promote diverse cultural competency and reduce communication barriers through the employment of language interpretation services.**
- b) Reduce the burden on corrections by increasing the use of alternatives to incarceration. Established Drug Courts in FY04 –FY05 funded through Byrne will be assessed for impact.**
- c) Address the issue of overcrowding of local and state correctional facilities. Deputy County Administrator and Chief Barrett - resulting in recommendations for FY 05 budget have evaluated overcrowding.**

### **Additional Emphasis Areas:**

- a) Address the lack of in-patient services for offenders requiring psychiatric care.**
  - b.) Establish mental health and dual diagnosis medical services for juvenile offenders.**
- c.) Develop a pre-trial release system for specialized populations.**

## **JUVENILE**

### **Major Emphasis Areas:**

- a) Development of family based prevention and probation programs.**
- b) Demand accountability from parents and youth for acts of delinquency. S.B. 181 – Truancy collaborative in Columbus City schools.**
- c) Create programs to serve special juvenile populations including sexually violent offenders, homeless youth, and juvenile offenders deemed mentally incompetent. We are not funding any project for special needs services however, we continue to fund further development and application of the Global Risk Assessment for juveniles in the Detention Center, Juvenile Probation, and selected Columbus and Southwestern City schools through JJDP Title II.**
- d) Address the Disproportionate Minority Confinement (DMC) issues within the juvenile justice system.**

### **Additional Emphasis Areas:**

- a) Eliminate the duplication of services provided for juveniles.**
- c) b.) Reduce the burden on the traditional juvenile justice system by increasing the use of community diversion programs. We will fund NO Juvenile Diversion projects in FY 05 due to the 67% decrease in JAIBG funding.**

## **COURTS**

### **Major Emphasis Areas:**

- a.) Expand diversion programs to provide additional alternatives to incarceration.**
- b.) Address the inefficiencies of courtroom facilities, transportation between jail and court, public defender, assignment, and administrative processes. New courthouse approved, two new judges approved, additional prosecutors and public defenders hired in 2005. Application for Community Problem Solving grant to address assignment and administrative processes.**
- c.) Increase the options and flexibility of treatment programs to allow offenders to maintain employment and meet childcare demands. Issues have been addressed by DJFS, Maryhaven, and other providers BUT the reduction in funding for these programs has resulted in increased need.**

### **Additional Emphasis Areas:**

- a) Address the staffing reductions and increased demand for Pre-Sentence Investigations (PSI)**
- b.) Provide cultural understanding training to promote diverse cultural competency and reduce communication barriers through the employment of language interpretation services for prosecutors and public defenders.**
- c.) Develop programs to support alternative sentencing options for special offender populations.**
- d.) Evaluate the impact of the following issues on the judicial system:**
  - Children in courtrooms**
  - In -balance of minority representation**
  - Environmental conditions impact on crime**
  - Overburden of drug cases**
  - Repeated court appearances leading to loss of victim/witness participation**
  - Pre-trial release**
  - 24 hour Clerk of Courts for Common Pleas or Clerks in Courtroom**
  - Defendant orientation**
  - Program costs for indigent families**



## **LAW ENFORCEMENT**

### **Major Emphasis Areas:**

- a) Promote integration of justice technology to facilitate interagency communication and information sharing. Phase II IS currently under way funded by LLEBG AND Phase III has been submitted for UASI funding.**
- b) Provide cultural understanding training to promote diverse cultural competency and reduce communication barriers through the employment of language interpretation services. City of Columbus has moved forward to address this issue for their officers. We are working toward a comprehensive training delivery by CPD for all Franklin County law enforcement. Interpretation services under review by Commissioners.**
- c) Develop protocols and identify funding to support Homeland Security duties. State Homeland Security (SHSG) and Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) funds have been flowing into the county. Priority needs for PPE are complete and all equipment is on order or received.**

### **Additional Emphasis Areas:**

- a.) Develop a protocol for addressing security issues that require collaboration between federal, state, and local law enforcement. This area has been dramatically impacted by the advent of Homeland Security. Protocols have been developed and implemented for information sharing at all levels.**
- b.) Address neighborhood quality of life complaints of local citizens including graffiti, noise, and speed violations. Emerging trends in community crime have been addressed through grant funded projects as needs are identified. School Sports Violence and truancy (affecting auto theft and home burglaries) will be addressed under JJII in FY05.**
- c.) Reduce DUI (Driving Under Intoxication) repeat offenders.**

## **PROBATION/PAROLE**

### **Major Emphasis Areas:**

- a) Reduce caseload on probation/parole officers.**
- b) Increase general fund allocation for probation/parole departments.**
- c) Reduce communication barriers through the employment of language interpretation services and provide required forms in multi languages. Under study by Commissioners.**
- d) Improve communication between probation/parole and the Court, law enforcement, and Prosecutors.**

### **Additional Emphasis Areas:**

- a) Increase officer safety through training and issuance of emergency communication devices.**
- b) Increase mental health services availability for qualified offenders.**
- c) Provide cultural understanding training to promote diverse cultural competency.**
- d) Increase the utilization of pre-trial services.**
- e) Improve tracking of defendants to provide reliable recidivism information.**